

Bedwas & Machen Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1968.

BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1968-69

Chairman	Councillor R.T. Davies, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	..	..	..	..	..	Councillor S.G. Tewis

MEMBERS :-

Councillor D.E.J. Arthur	Councillor D.R. Perrott
" W.C. Barnes	" A.E. Gameson
" Mrs. D. Jones	" Mrs. T.D. James
" F. Phipps	" Mrs. M.P. Jones, M.A. (Oxon)
" E.V. Matthews	" T. Nicholas, M.B.E.
" T. Norval	" F.S. Nind
" E.F. Pearce	" A. Williams

OFFICERS :-

Clerk of the Council	..	..	..	R.W.P. Humphreys
Medical Officer of Health	..	..	..	T.J. Powell
Engineer and Surveyor	..	..	..	R.F.E. Ruttley
Chief Financial Officer	..	..	..	D.N. Tewis
Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	I. Jones
Additional Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	R. Mitchard
Bankers	...	..	..	Co-operative Wholesale Society

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Bedwas,
Mon.

June, 1969.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Bedwas and
Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending
31st December, 1968.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT

Approximate Area	..	..	..	..	6,200 acres
Population (Census 1961)	..	..	..	..	10,230
Population (Estimated Mid-June 1968)	..	..	..	..	11,940
Rateable Value (1968)	..	..	..	..	£232,717
Rate in the £	..	..	..	..	17/3d
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	..	..	..	..	£874

The erection of the Graig-y-Rhacca Estate, virtually completed during the past year, together with smaller private housing developments, has contributed to a further increase of the population during the year.

BIRTH RATES

LIVE BIRTHS

	MATES	FEMATES	TOTAL
Legitimate	121	115	236
Illegitimate	6	4	10
TOTAL :	127	119	246

BIRTH RATE PER THOUSAND OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council (Crude)	..	..	20.6
England and Wales	..	..	16.9

STILLBIRTHS

The total number of stillbirths during the year were :-

0 Males and 3 Females.

STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	..	..	..	12
England and Wales	..	..	..	14

INFANT MORTALITY

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year of age :-

4 Males and 2 Females.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	24
England and Wales	18

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of Maternal Deaths	NIT.
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DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Syphilis and its Sequelae	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	-	6
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	3	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	15	2	17
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3
Meningitis	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	3	-	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	9	29
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	3	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	13	20
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	2	5
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	3	8
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
Congenital Anomalies	2	-	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	2	-	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	1	4	5
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
TOTAL :	87	58	145

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	..	..	..	..	12.1
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	11.9

PREVENTENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

This year's Infectious Diseases Notifications which were sent in by the Local Practitioners and Institutions are :-

The total number of notifications were - 28.

The cases notified and classified in Ward Incidence are as follows :-

Ward	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	T.B.
Maesycwmmmer	4	-	-	1
Bedwas	4	-	-	1
Trethomas	2	-	-	1
Machen	15	-	-	-
TOTAL :	25	-	-	3

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis notified during the year and 4 new cases were received as follows :-

WARD INCIDENCE

Ward	Males	Females
Maesycwmmmer	1	-
Bedwas	1	1
Trethomas	1	-
TOTAL :	3	1

The above cases reported were of the Pulmonary Tuberculosis type.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, received the Royal Assent in July, 1968, and Part III dealing with notifiable diseases and food poisoning became operative on 1st October, 1968. It repeals earlier provisions relating to notification procedures and sets out unified procedures. It also includes provisions concerning the medical examination of a person suffering from, or believed to be the cause of a notifiable disease.

The principal changes from earlier Regulations are :-

Acute primary pneumonia
Acute influenzal pneumonia
Acute rheumatism

and puerperal pyrexia are no longer notifiable, and tetanus and yellow fever require for the first time to be notified.

Leptospirosis, hitherto to be notified only in certain areas, is to be notified throughout England and Wales.

Infective Jaundice became notifiable in all areas on 15th June, 1968. The powers of a Medical Officer of Health of a district to vaccinate contacts of persons suffering from Smallpox have been extended to other diseases.

FEES

Section 48 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, requires a Medical Practitioner to notify any case or suspected case of a notifiable disease or food poisoning by certificate to the Medical Officer of Health, and a fee of five shillings for each certificate duly sent is payable by the Local Authority to the Medical Practitioner concerned.

Section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as modified.

Any Medical Practitioner who fails to send a certificate, which he is required by this Section to send, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, unless he satisfies the Court that the disease had been notified by another Practitioner.

MEASLES

Vaccination campaign appears to be succeeding.

In the last quarter of 1968 there were 37,000 notifications in England and Wales, compared with 135,000 in the last quarter of 1966, when the last winter epidemic was in progress. Thus the epidemic of Measles which would have been expected during the winter of 1968-69 did not materialise by the end of December.

MEASLES (CONT'D.)

It is hoped that Measles will become an historic disease in a few years.

Vaccination and Immunisation in Childhood. Measles - May, 1968.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, vaccination against Measles was offered from May, 1968, to susceptible children between their fourth and seventh birthdays, and to susceptible children between their first and fourth birthdays, if they are attending day nurseries or nursery schools or living in residential establishments. When the supplies of vaccine become more plentiful it is hoped to vaccinate all susceptible children up to the age of 15 years.

Revised Schedules of Vaccination and Immunisation procedures in childhood and their timing. August, 1968.

Age	Prophylactic	Interval	Notes
During 1st year of life.	Dipth/Tet/Pent and Oral Polio Vaccine (1st dose)		The earliest age at which the 1st dose should be given is 3 months, but better to wait until 6 months.
	" " (2nd dose)	Preferably after interval of 6 - 8 weeks.	
	" " (3rd dose)	Preferably after 4 months.	
During 2nd year of life.	Measles vaccine. Smallpox "		
At 5 years - School entry.	Dipth/Lit and Oral Polio. Smallpox re-vaccination.		
At 15-19 years - School leaving.	Polio vaccine (Oral). Tetanus Toxoid " Smallpox re-vaccination.		

Also between 10 - 13 years B.C.G. Vaccine is given for tuberculin negative children.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L.J. Powell

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Bedwas,
Mon.

June, 1969.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Bedwas and
Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st
December, 1968.

NOTICES SERVED

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sections 92 & 93) 1968
(Abatement of Nuisances: Repairs to
Properties).

Preliminary Notices and Letters 107

Abatement Notices -

2. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 269)
(Moveable Dwellings)

Preliminary Notices and Letters 1

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961 (Section 34)
(Accumulation of Rubbish)

Preliminary Notices and Letters 24

HOUSING

There has been a steady take-up of grants available for the provision of bathrooms, etc., particularly where the older houses are being sold.

A new scale of grant is shortly to be introduced so it is probable that this will continue and possibly increase the rate of the taking-up of grants.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Houses demolished (Not in Clearance Areas)	..	..	3
Houses still standing and subject to Demolition or Closing Orders	..	..	8
Number of above houses still occupied	..	..	NIL
Number of houses dealt with other than in Clearance Areas	..	..	2

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by Local Authority	..	..	58
After formal Notice under Public Health Acts	..	..	NIL

RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications during the year.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Inspections were carried out of houses and flats on the cessation of tenancies.

Disinfestation for bed-bugs, or precautions against infestation, was necessary in comparatively few instances.

Visits and re-visits made	94
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Visits necessitated by enquiries in regard to 'bad rent tenants' have increased principally at the Graig-y-Rhacca site, obviously the result of the higher rents appertaining here; tenants probably finding initial difficulty in adjusting to the higher rents.

Visits made for this purpose	96
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 25 cases of Measles, 4 Pulmonary T.B., and 3 Infectious Hepatitis notifications received during the year.

The Tuberculosis cases were investigated ascertaining housing conditions, and advice given, where necessary.

There were no Scarlet Fever or Whooping Cough notifications.

WATER SUPPLIES

All water is supplied by the Taf Fechan Water Board. 12 samples were taken for analysis as a check during the year, and each proved entirely satisfactory.

There was no undue interruption in the public supply, although parts of the Machen area suffered some interruption whilst various descaling operations were carried out by the Water Board.

DRAINS AND SEWERS

Soil drains and sewers are discharged in the trunk sewer of the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board, and apart from the one instance when there was a particularly heavy torrential downpour in the Summer, which carried a considerable amount of debris, grit, etc. in the drains, the system functioned adequately.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council is a participant in the County Radio-Active Fallout Supervision Scheme whereby samples of air, drinking water, rainwater, sewage effluent and bulk milk supplies are taken and examined as to the amount of radio-activity given off. Information is forwarded to the office every quarter, and up to the present time the radio-activity is well below the dangerous level.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic refuse is collected once weekly from every dwelling in the district, and there is no official collection of any trade refuse. Recently, collections have been withdrawn from some lock-up premises where no-one resides, and this has necessitated the occupiers to make other arrangements. However, no undue difficulty has arisen.

A certain amount of indiscriminate dumping of rubbish takes place on some open areas, particularly the ex-prefabricated houses sites, and so consideration might be given to the provision at certain selected spots of containers for the reception of unwanted rubbish which cannot be placed in the ordinary bins. These containers should be removeable for emptying and cleansing.

The Civil Amenities Act requires the Local Authority to provide 'places' where refuse may be deposited at all reasonable times, and such a place must be reasonably accessible, so dependant upon the position of the refuse tip and the amount of indiscriminate dumping that may take place, the Council may have to consider such a suggestion.

The disposal of refuse at the Fountain Bridge Refuse Tip will soon end. This tip has been a constant nuisance and it is hoped that future disposal arrangements will be conducted in a more satisfactory manner.

Looking to the future obviously incineration or pulverisation is the ideal, particularly since tipping sites are becoming more difficult to find.

However, if effective and proper controlled tipping is carried out, there should be no recurrence of the problems appertaining at Fountain Bridge.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

During the year I have caused 19 cars to be removed which, seemingly, had been abandoned. A considerable amount of time has been spent also on contacting owners of cars which are in a poor condition and possibly on the point of abandonment, and offering assistance in disposal. In this way, I think I have achieved the result of having many repaired or removed by the owner and preventing abandonment.

CARAVAN SITES

There are two Licensed Sites within the district, one at Pandy Road, Bedwas, and the other at Newport Road, Trethomas. Both are privately owned.

During the year, an electricity supply was provided to all caravans at Newport Road, Trethomas, and the boundary wall completed around the area with other general improvements. The site at Pandy Road already had electricity installed.

Regular inspections are made at these sites and, in general, both are maintained reasonably satisfactorily.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications received and granted totalled	..	25
The amount of money totalled	.. .. .	£5,172
No applications were received for Discretionary Grants	.. .. .	-
Three applications were received for Improvement Grants	.. .. .	£1,450

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Number of shops in which assistants are employed	..	20
Number of other Food Shops	.. .. .	46
Number of Cafes	.. .. .	4
Number of Fish Friers	.. .. .	4

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

(a) Manufacture of Sausages and Cooked Meats	..	4
(b) Sale of Ice-cream	.. .. .	39
(c) Manufacture of Ice-cream	.. .. .	1

SUMMARY OF FOODSTUFFS SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED

Tins of cooked chicken	.. .. .	18 lbs.
Tins of cooked hams	.. .. .	11 lbs.
Cartons of cheese	.. .. .	44 lbs.
Margarine/butter	.. .. .	65½ lbs.
Cans of tomatoes	.. .. .	4 tins.

SHOPS, CAFES, CANTEENS AND LICENSED PREMISES

Inspections were carried out of all Shops, Cafes, Canteens and Licensed Premises, and the number of visits made for this purpose totalled 125.

The standard of cleanliness and hygiene is normally satisfactory, but obviously from time to time defects or nuisances arise, and a letter or verbal request to the owners usually achieves a satisfactory result. There have been no refusals to do any necessary works to date.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

No. of registered hairdressers	12
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Premises are regularly inspected and the inspections show that the bye-laws are adhered to so that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained.

MEAT INSPECTION

A hundred per cent meat inspection has been carried out by myself and your additional Public Health Inspector, at the three private slaughterhouses throughout the year. This still entails working on Sundays and overtime on some week-days.

The overall kill has declined, probably partly due to increased prices of meat and partly to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease at the beginning of the year which upset the intake of animals into the slaughterhouses.

Incidentally, your Meat Inspector and myself have continuously provided training and tuition of trainee Public Health Inspectors of neighbouring Authorities in meat inspection. This arrangement does enable us to ask for assistance should the need arise during the holiday period.

The statistics relating to the inspection and slaughtering are as follows :-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Number slaughtered	1,933	34	6	4,985	14,937
Number inspected	1,933	34	6	4,985	14,937
<u>All diseases except T.B. and Cystercercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	1	6	10
Part or organ condemned	844	18	Nil	422	1,207
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	63	Nil
<u>Cystercerci</u>					
Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	34	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PERCENTAGES OF ANIMALS AFFECTED

Conditions other than Tuberculosis :-

Cattle, excluding cows	..	..	..	..	..	45%
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	53%
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	16%
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	8.4%
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	8%

T.B. only :-

Cattle, excluding cows	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	1.2%
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Percentage of animals affected with Cystercerci .. 1.7%

4 carcasses were submitted to refrigeration treatment.

Total approximate weight of meat and offals condemned :-

6 tons 14 cwts.

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION

One Rodent Operator is employed full-time in rodent disinfection.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the year and special attention was given to the refuse tip until August.

Since August, at the Fountain Bridge Refuse Tip, rodent eradication has been carried out by Rentokil Ltd., under contract.

There was a dramatic reduction in the infestation in the first two to three months, and a steady drop since then. The amount of infestation, I think, is now within controllable limits, although due to the position of the tip, and the fact that it is still in use, complete eradication will be improbable.

If the use of this tip ceases this year then control will become measurably easier.

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION (CONT'D.)

The trouble, nuisance and expense that has resulted from indiscriminate tipping such as had previously been carried out at this tip will underline the fact that controlled tipping is essential in the future, if other forms of destruction or incineration are not used.

The baiting and treatment of the sewers has been continued throughout the district and, in general, taking into account that this is an Urban/Rural area, there is no evidence of undue infestation.

The following is a brief summary of work carried out during the year :-

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

		<u>Type of Property</u>	
		<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1.	No. of properties in district.	3,969	42
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	240	2
	(b) Number infested by :		
	Rats	170	2
	Mice	30	-
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	250	8
	(b) Number infested by :		
	Rats	43	3
	Mice	7	1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered	No. of Persons Employed
Offices.	10	19
Retail Shops.	30	61
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses.	2	6
Catering Establishments.	8	20
T O T A L :	50	106

No. of visits made during the year 108

Various minor contraventions were found at different times throughout the year. These contraventions were principally in the temporary breakdown of heating arrangements or sanitary accommodation, but after verbally requesting the managements to attend to the matters, there has been no need to proceed with further legal action, all matters having been attended to satisfactorily.

STATISTICS OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED TO THIS AUTHORITY

5 accidents were reported during the year, occurring in premises registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

They all occurred at one Wholesale Distributing Depot and were all of a minor nature, such as splinters in hands from packing cases.

This information was supplied to H.M. Factory Inspector, as required.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Visits were made to the factories and workplaces in the district and the number of inspections for these purposes were 18.

There is one factory in the area which has had unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation. This was because of the unavailability of a public sewer, but this has now been provided within a reasonable distance of the factory, and plans and work is going ahead to provide proper accommodation and to connect to the sewer.

Generally, the standards in the factories and workplaces are satisfactorily maintained.

There are no outworkers in the district so no visits have been made in connection with these.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. of Regist- ered	No. of Inspec- tions	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	14	10	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	1	2	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	10	6	Nil

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS (CONT'D.)

PART 1 OF THE ACT

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Section 1 - Cleanliness.	Nil	Nil
Section 5 and 7 Lighting and Provision of Sanitary Accommodation.	1	1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

I. Jones

Public Health Inspector

